

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

/097 W

-----142119Z 043894 /66

R 141546Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8741

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 01322

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EMIN, EEC, FR

SUBJ: FRENCH RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE

FERTILIZER

REF: STATE 7118 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY FIRST REPORTED USE BY FRENCH OF ADMINISTRATIVE VISA SYSTEM ON PHOSPHATE FERTILIZERS AS DE FACTO QR IN 76 PARIS 30161 (OCT 13). WE INVITED WASHINGTON COMMENTS AT THAT TIME.

2. FRENCH ARE OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED OVER LIVING OPENLY IN SIN IN THIS WAY AND BY FREQUENT EMBASSY DEMARCHES ON BEHALF OF BEKER EXPORT CORPORATION, WHOSE CARGO OF DAP IN BORDEAUX HAS BEEN AWAITING AN ADMINISTRATIVE VISA SINCE AUGUST. AS REPORTED IN PARIS 651, THERE ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCREASING INDICATIONS THAT GOF WILL MOVE TO FORMAL QUOTAS UNDER GATT ARTICLE 19 SOME TIME THIS MONTH. WE HAVE BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED THAT MOIR PROPOSAL TO THIS EFFECT IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION BY PRIME MINISTER.

3. GIVEN HEAVY AND CONTINUING PROTECTIONIST PRESSURE ON GOF FROM FRENCH FERTILIZER INDUSTRY, GOF PLANS FOR

RESTRUCTURING THAT INDUSTRY (WHICH QR'S COULD HELP TO ENFORCE) AND FACT THAT PROPOSAL FOR FORMAL QR'S IS NOW AT PRIME MINISTER LEVEL, WE SEE NO FUTURE IN APPROACHING MINAG WITH PRICE ARGUMENT. WE ASSUME THEY HAVE ALREADY CLEARED MOIR PROPOSAL IN ANY CASE. FURTHER DEMARCHES TO MOIR ON MISUSE OF ADMINISTRATIVE VISA WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO HASTEN INVOCATION OF ARTICLE 19 THAN BRING LIBERALIZATION. THUS, UNLESS PM SURPRISES US BY REJECTING QR PROPOSAL, OUR ONLY RECOURSE WOULD APPEAR TO BE COMPENSATION UNDER ARTICLE 19.

4. RAY OF HOPE MAY BE FOUND IN POSSIBILITY THAT MOROCCO WILL AGREE TO LONG TERM SUPPLY OF ROCK OR ACID TO FRENCH AT REDUCED PRICE. WE KNOW THAT THIS WAS DISCUSSED DURING HASSAN'S RECENT PARIS VISIT. EMBASSY RABAT MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON THIS POSSIBILITY, THOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW AGREEMENT COULD BE NEGOTIATED IN TIME TO FORESTALL INTRODUCTION OF FORMAL QR'S.  
GAMMON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009